

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A network node (1) with a communication unit (2), which is provided for the implementation of a communication protocol for the purpose of communication with other network nodes via a communication medium (5), and with a bus monitor (3), which, mutually independently, each implement an access time schedule contained in a configuration data record, and which each make available, in accordance with the access time schedule, a release signal for a bus driver (4) provided in the network node (1), which evaluates these two signals and, in the event that the two release signals do not coincide, blocks the access of the network node (1) to the communication medium (5).
  
2. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the communication unit (2) supplies, in addition, a transmission request signal to the bus driver (4), as a function of which the bus driver (4) activates its transmission stage (10) if no blockage of access to the communication medium (5) is present.

3. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the release signals of the communication unit (2) and the bus monitor (3) are coded inversely to one another.

4. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the evaluation of the two release signals is undertaken in the bus driver (4) under the influence of a low-pass filter (7).

5. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the low-pass filter (7) is of configurable design.

6. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that error-state detection generated in the bus driver (4) is resettable from the outside.

7. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that error-state detection generated in the bus driver (4) is signaled to the outside.

8. (original) A network node as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the bus monitor (3) and the bus driver (4) are integrated into one unit.

9. (currently amended) A network with network nodes as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the network nodes (1) communicate with each other via the communication medium (5).

10. (original) A network as claimed in claim 9, in which redundant network channels are provided, wherein a bus monitor (3) and a bus driver (4) are assigned to each network channel in each network node (1).

11. (original) A bus driver (4) for a network node (1), which is provided for communication with other network nodes via a communication medium (5), wherein the bus driver evaluates two release signals for equality of the release information made available to it by two separate units (2, 3) provided in the network node, which, mutually independently, each implement an access time schedule, and wherein, in the event that the release signals do not coincide, the bus driver blocks the access of the network node (1) to the communication medium (5).